

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Claims 203, 204, 217, 218, and 251-258 were pending. Claims 203, 204, 217, 218, and 251-258 are now pending in the application.

The amendments on page 25, between lines 26 and 28 , and on page 54, line 3 were made to explain the features of the newly added Figure 23G, and find support on page 57, lines 16-23; page 56, lines 17-18; page 56, lines 24-25; page 51, line 16 to page 53, line 13; page 28, line 19 to page 33, line 18; Figure 1G, and Figure 23. Therefore, no new matter was added.

Mention in the specification (page 3, line 6) of the related U.S. Patent 6,629,809 was made according the Examiner's requirement.

The addition of Figure 23G finds support on page 57, lines 16-23; page 56, lines 17-18; page 56, lines 24-25; page 51, line 16 to page 53, line 13; page 28, line 19 to page 33, line 18; Figure 1G, and Figure 23. Therefore, no new matter was added.

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

The disclosure was objected to because of the absence of the related U.S. Patent 6,629,809 from the specification.

The specification was amended to include this related patent in page 3, line 6 of the specification.

Therefore Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objection.

The specification was further amended on page 25, between lines 26 and 28 , and on page 54, line 3 in order to explain the features of the newly added Figure 23G.

Drawings

The Drawings were objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a) because the combination of the claimed embodiment with the vehicle was not shown.

Figure 23G is hereby enclosed on an Additional Sheet. Figure 23G demonstrates clearly how objects of a vehicle are connected together by the fastener of the instant invention. As aforementioned, Figure 23G finds support on page 57, lines 16-23; page 56, lines 17-18; page 56, lines 24-25; page 51, line 16 to page 53, line 13; page 28, line 19 to page 33, line 18; Figure 1G, and Figure 23.

Double Patenting

Claims 203, 204, 217, 218, and 251-258 were provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 191-202 and 205-216 of co-pending Application No. 10/607,863.

Applicant respectfully intends to file a Terminal Disclaimer as soon as the claims of Application No. 10/607,863 become allowable, and as soon as the claims of the instant application become allowable, except for the issue of such Terminal Disclaimer.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The comments of the Examiner are acknowledged.

Claims 203, 204, 217, 218, and 251-258 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Parkin (U. S. Patent No. 3,426,817).

Applicant respectfully traverses the position of the Office Action. The claims of the present invention, have immense differences when compared to what Parkin (U. S. Patent No. 3,426,817) discloses.

The major and **critical** difference is that according to the present invention the snapping segments are connected to the top section, and the left and right sections are connected to the bottom section, while in the case of Parkin both the “first resilient pair 3, 4” (column 2, lines 27-32) and the “second pair of resilient arms 7, 8” extend integrally from the “base 1” (column 2, lines 33-40).

Applicant respectfully submits that only this difference, even if it were not critical, which it is, does not cause lack of novelty from the present invention by the disclosure of Parkin.

Further, Parkin’s disclosure does not even obviate the fasteners of the present invention.

In the case of Parkin’s device, if the “first pair of resilient arms 3, 4” (column 2, lines 27-32) were not extending integrally from the “base 1”, but from the “end portions 9, 10” of the “second pair of resilient arms 7, 8” the operation of Parkin’s device would be impossible, since an operator would not be able to apply and later release manual, or any other kind of pressure, in order to flex the “second pair of resilient arms 7, 8” in a manner to flex and align the “apertures 9a and 10a” with the “aperture 2” of the “nut means”, and finally cause the “flared lips 11, 12” to be into “locking engagement” (column 2, line 61 to column 3, line 2).

Further, if the snapping segments of the present invention were connected to the bottom section, the fastener of the present invention would become inoperable, since the snapping segments would not flex in the proper position.

In other words, for the device of Parkin to be operable, it is **absolutely critical** that the “first pair of resilient arms 3, 4” (column 2, lines 27-32) have to have their fulcrum away from the “end portions 9, 10” of the “second pair of resilient arms

7, 8”, while for the fastener of the present invention to be operable, it is **absolutely critical** that the snapping segments have their fulcrum **on** the top section.

Thus, Parkin’ s disclosure not only does not obviate the connection of the snapping segments to the upper or lower section of the present invention, but **definitely leads away** from such configuration.

Therefore, Applicant earnestly believes that claims 203, 204, 217, 218, and 251-258 are neither anticipated under 35 USC § 102(b) by, nor even obviated under 35 USC § 103(a) over Parkin (U. S. Patent No. 3,426,817), and respectfully requests removal of the rejection.

Conclusion

Applicants acknowledge the comments of the Examiner.